

Senator Melissa Murray, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

April 14, 2026

Support for S2468 – Limiting use of step therapy

Chair Murray and Members of the Committee,

Rhode Island Working Families Power writes in strong support of S2468, from Sen. Ujifusa. Working Families Power advocates for policies that promote economic justice and ensure that all people can access the care they need to live healthy and dignified lives, which this bill would help advance.

Step therapy protocols—often referred to as “fail first” policies—can create serious barriers to timely and effective medical treatment. By requiring patients to try and fail on insurer-preferred medications before accessing the treatment originally prescribed by their provider, these policies can delay care, worsen health outcomes, and in some cases lead to avoidable complications or hospitalizations.

S2468 would establish a clear and reasonable process for medical providers to request exceptions to step therapy requirements when they are not in the best interest of the patient. This is a common-sense reform that respects the clinical judgment of healthcare providers and recognizes that treatment decisions should be guided by patient needs—not rigid insurance protocols.

Patients with chronic conditions, complex illnesses, or unique medical histories are especially vulnerable under step therapy requirements. For these individuals, being forced to cycle through ineffective or inappropriate medications can cause unnecessary suffering and increase overall healthcare costs. Allowing timely exceptions helps ensure that patients receive the right treatment at the right time.

We hope the committee will move S2468 forward and help ensure that Rhode Islanders can access the care their providers deem necessary without harmful delays.

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